

## **DRAFT**

### Minutes of Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board Fort Lauderdale, Florida

January 25, 2006

#### Board Members in Attendance:

Chief Bruce G. Roberts (Law Enforcement Representative)  
Dr. Joseph Molita (School Board Representative)  
Monica Hofeinz (State Attorney's Office Representative)  
Carol Lee Ortman (Court Representative), via conference call

#### Guests:

Patrick Lynch, Board Liaison  
Robert Carter, Captain, Fort Lauderdale Police Department

#### Funding Recommendation for Local Law Enforcement Block 2008

Chief Roberts opened the meeting at 11:45 am. by thanking everyone for joining the meeting on short notice.

Patrick Lynch began by explaining the aggressive time line of this grant opportunity.

On January 12, 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice released information about the amount of money that police departments nationwide would receive. It was announced that Fort Lauderdale would receive \$89,588.00. One week later a meeting was held with all the sites in Broward County. It was then that we found out the applications are due March 2, 2006. The Broward Sheriff's Office organizes and facilitates the application process. Chief Roberts immediately organized a meeting to determine the specific projects that the City would request to use grant funds for.

In order to meet the March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline, Fort Lauderdale is required to have a public announcement for a 30-day period showing the list of projects this Board and the City Commission are recommending. The public announcement would need to be posted by February 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to meet the 30-day requirement. This Board is meeting today to make a decision and recommend funding for the year so we can share our recommendation with the City Commission. The list can then be posted for public review and the application can be submitted by March 2, 2006.

[*UPDATE*: A Commission memo (a.k.a. "Friday" memo) was distributed to the City commission on January 27<sup>th</sup>. It was also on this date that the public announcements were posted on both the City's website and the Police Department's website].

**Exhibit 1** (attached) was distributed to all Board members present. This was used to guide the discussion on all of the purchases listed. Patrick Lynch read each of the item titles and the costs associated with each. Chief Roberts and Captain Carter briefly reviewed the descriptions of each equipment request on the list.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board Meeting: 1/25/2006

Consistent with Exhibit 1, the following items were discussed:

- Illuminated traffic vests:  
*Captain Carter added that these are particularly useful during hurricane recovery efforts when the City has widespread power outages.*
- Marine Boat Engines
- Segway Human Transporters  
*Chief Roberts added that an additional advantage of these transporters is that they are good to use during career days at schools to get kids interested in law enforcement.*
- Mounted Police Saddles:  
*The point was made that this is a highly visible and highly public unit that provides a great public relations image for the Police Department.*
- Tactical Impact Unit: Car Lights/Sirens:  
*We just started this unit in September of the past year and it is very successful, with measurable crime reduction from the previous year.*
- Car radio chargers
- CID Vehicle Tracking Device
- Ambu/CPR Bags:  
Chief Roberts noted that all officers are trained in CPR and need the proper equipment.
- Tactical Impact Unit: Shotgun Microphone

Board members did not have any questions about the purchases. Patrick Lynch noted that the amount of funds available to the City this year is approximately half the amount available last year. Rather than using the \$89,588 for one or two large purchases, the Police Department decided to disperse funds for a variety of smaller projects throughout the Department.

A motion was made to accept the grant recommendations posed by the Police Department by Monica Hofeinz (State Attorney's Office Representative).

The motion was seconded by Carol Lee Ortman (Court Representative).

The recommendation was approved.

Patrick Lynch stated that he will prepare a Commission Memo based on this Board's recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 pm.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board Meeting: 1/25/2006



Exhibit 1

2006-2007 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant  
Proposed Use of Funds: City of Fort Lauderdale

**TOTAL 2006-2007 ALLOCATION: \$89,588**

<u>Item Description</u>	<u># of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>
<u>Total Cost</u>		
Illuminated Traffic Vests \$23,760.00	440	\$54.00
Marine Unit Boat Engines \$22,326.00	2	\$11,163.00
Segway Human Transporter \$12,000.00	2	\$6,000.00
Mounted Police Saddles \$10,000.00	5	\$2,000.00
Tactical Impact Unit: Car Lights/Sirens \$7,000.00	14	\$500.00
Car Radio Chargers \$6,000.00	75	\$80.00
CID: Vehicle Tracking Device \$5,000.00	1	\$5,000.00
Ambu/CPR Bags \$2,500.00	125	\$20.00
Tactical Impact Unit: Shotgun Microphone \$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00

**TOTAL:**

**\$89,586.00**

Illuminated Traffic Vests (440): \$23,760.00

*Post-Hurricane Wilma operations demonstrated that our currently issued traffic safety vests were ineffective. These vests, which are constructed mainly of reflective material, were inadequate because officers were nearly invisible in the low-light environment that existed after the Hurricane, when electricity had failed. The illuminated vests are battery-powered and provide their own illumination. These vests will provide greater safety for the officers as well as for the public, since officers conducting traffic operations will be clearly visible.*

Marine Boat Engines (2): \$22,326.00

*The Fort Lauderdale Police Department Marine Unit is requesting (2) replacement motors for a marked police vessel. The engines requested are the standard outboard motor the Marine Unit uses on its current 28' Intrepid and Boston Whaler patrol vessels. The engine is manufactured by Bombardier Corporation; Evinrude E-Tec, 225 horse power.*

<u>Model #</u>	<u>Cost</u>
E225DPX	\$10,592.00
E225DCX	\$10,802.00
Installation Labor	<u>\$ 932.00</u>
Total	\$22,326.00

*Two engines are required per vessel. The reason for the different model numbers and cost is due to the fact that on a twin engine vessel, the propellers must spin opposite one another so the vessel drives straight. The counter-rotating model requires a different transmission than the standard motor, therefore the price difference.*

*The Marine Unit has always attempted to maintain a fleet with vessels under their 2-year commercial warranty. This is both fiscally responsible and imperative for officer and citizen safety. New engines require only regularly scheduled maintenance and minor repairs; all other issues are completed under manufacturer's warranty. The new Evinrude E-Tec engines, which became available last year, only require maintenance every 200 hours of operation instead of the usual 100 hours as on all previous outboard engines. This should gradually reduce maintenance costs as the fleet changes over to these new motors. The Marine Unit currently employs six of these newer technology engines.*

*There is an immediate need for a fully functioning vessel which is now sitting idle on a trailer and is unusable because it lacks engines. In fact, of the twelve main patrol vessels, there are three vessels which are inoperable and five others with engines out of warranty.*

*Fort Lauderdale has over 120 miles of navigable waterway that the Police Department patrols; a fully functional fleet of vessels is required to provide this service properly.*

Segway Human Transporter (2): \$12,000.00

*The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has always been a leader in the areas of community policing throughout the South Florida Law Enforcement community. The benefits of utilizing all available technologies and resources have always made our agency one to be admired and followed by other agencies. The purchase of two (2) Segway Human Transporters will not only showcase members of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department but also enable the delivery of enhanced public safety.*

*The Fort Lauderdale Business areas and Fort Lauderdale Beach are two of the most highly visible spots to introduce the Segway Human Transporter and deliver Law Enforcement services. The use in urban environments without pollution and enhanced community contact is sure to be a success. The Segway can be used on sidewalks and allows officers to be in close personal contact with our residents, workers and visitors. It facilitates an officer to be on the scene of emergencies quicker than if on foot as well as in remote locations.*

*The Fort Lauderdale Police Department prides itself on delivering the best possible service to the community which is exemplified by past programs such as Officers on Rollerblades, and our Bicycle Unit program which have been highly regarded throughout the State of Florida. The City of Fort Lauderdale is an ideal location to provide enhanced service by Police Department personnel utilizing the Segway Human Transporter and may be such a success as to lead to other branches of City services utilizing this delivery mode in the future.*

Mounted Police Saddles (5): \$10,000.00

*Over the last several months, the Mounted Unit has acquired several new donated horses for use in the unit. It has also accepted several new Officers (with varying levels of experience) in the unit. In most cases in the past, it has used generic equipment for horse and rider. While this is a cost saving measure, generic equipment is not always desirable in that it does not provide the best fit for horse and rider. We are requesting to purchase fitted saddles, halter/bridals and bits.*

*The new fitted saddles would specifically fit the riders as well as the horse. When possible, a saddle fitted to the horse and rider is always more desirable. The result will be better performance from the horse, less stress and injury, a higher degree of comfort and longer service to the City. Our veterinarian has commented that it would be advisable for several of the newest horses to have better fitting saddles as a result of some performance and behavior issues we have already observed. Also, Fort Lauderdale Police Mounted Officers spend an average of six hours per day in the saddle on the street. An ill-fitting saddle can also cause back and leg stress to the rider.*

Tactical Impact Unit: Car Lights/Sirens (14): \$7,000.00

*Lights and sirens in the T.I.U. vehicles would serve two purposes. First, the equipment will aid the unit in responding more quickly and safely to emergency situations. Second, when conducting stops on public right-of-ways, the equipment will alert other drivers and pedestrians to officers' presence and reduce the probability of accidents.*

Car Radio Chargers (75): \$6,000.00

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Advisory Board Meeting: 1/25/2006

*The addition of seventy-five car radio chargers to the Police Info Systems/Fleet inventory is an important officer safety issue. It is imperative that Police Officers operating in the field have a radio that is working properly so that they can communicate with other officers and the Dispatch Center. The proper operation of the radio involves having a battery for that radio that is adequately charged at all times so that officers can transmit their radio traffic when need be.*

*Many of the Police Department's radios, and the batteries that power them, are old. Unfortunately, even if properly maintained, these batteries fail to hold a charge for an entire shift as they age. This becomes an officer safety issue because oftentimes officers may be involved in a crisis situation where they cannot return to the police station for a charged battery and do not have any other means to obtain one. Without a properly charged battery, radios will often not transmit and officers could find themselves alone in a dangerous situation without adequate means to call for back-up.*

*Car radio chargers give the officer the "on-the-street" ability to charge his own radio batteries within his own vehicle. A simple set-up and a minimal cost of \$80.00 per unit will allow the police officer to have access to a charged battery at all times. As a result, they will never be without adequate communications in a crisis situation.*

CID Vehicle Tracking Device (1): \$5,000.00

*The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) does not currently have a vehicle tracking device for investigative purposes. CID recently had the opportunity to conduct an investigation of an established burglary and identity theft organization that included extensive surveillance. The initial surveillance in this investigation met with problems due to personnel limitations. Since CID does not have any electronic tracking devices, a tracker was borrowed on a one day loan from the Special Investigations Division. This short loan was due to ongoing investigations that the unit was working. Our surveillance was successful, arrests were made and intelligence obtained in just the one day of use. Subsequent surveillance of the organization was conducted by utilizing equipment of outside agencies who we invited to work with CID. Additional arrests and intelligence were realized.*

*The use of such a vehicle tracking device instantly had a positive impact on investigation of the above mentioned criminal organization. Having such a device as a resource here in the CID would allow for more timely and extensive investigations as well as the better use of our personnel. CID would become less reliant on other divisions and outside agencies. In addition, CID would continue to realize the same positive results in combating Part One crime as detailed above.*

Ambu/CPR Bags (125): \$2,500.00

*Fort Lauderdale Police personnel are constantly called upon to respond to medical emergencies. Many times Department personnel are the first to arrive even before other medical assistance. All first-responding Department personnel have received CPR and first aid training.*

*If CPR is required, personnel would have to conduct direct mouth-to-mouth or some type of barrier protection. This would allow for greater risk of exposure to a patient. Due to the*

*fact that many people who are in need of medical attention also have other blood borne and infections diseases, it is preferable to use a device to limit exposure for Department personnel. Presently the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department uses an Ambu bag system for ventilation. This is to limit exposure to Fire Department Employees. Police Department personnel who are CPR qualified should also be equipped with an Ambu bag to limit exposure.*

Tactical Impact Unit: Shotgun Microphone (1): \$1,000.00

*The shotgun microphone is an electronic device that gathers sounds, noise and conversation from a distance greater than one could naturally hear. The shot gun microphone will enable the TIU members to monitor conversations, from a safe distance, between TIU officers and suspects as well as between several suspects and/or confidential informants. This device will enable us to gather information (criminal intelligence, weapons, etc) while keeping out of harms way.*